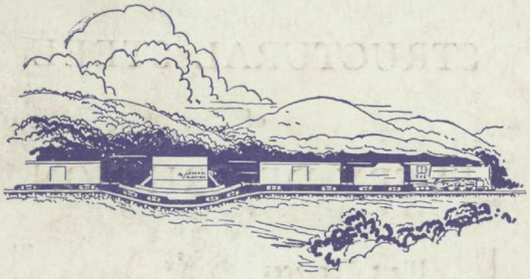
G-E *Campus News*

SYNTHETIC SUNLIGHT

THE people whose apartments faced the lower levels of the ventilating shafts in a 14-story New York apartment house had long ago given up the hope that direct sunlight would enter their windows. Imagine their astonishment one morning not long ago to find light—lots of it—streaming in. When they looked, they found not the sun, but 18 of the sun's able little imitators—General Electric floodlights. They had been mounted on the ninth-floor level.

The engineers were thoughtful of the tenants' feelings. For when the switch is thrown no sudden glare of light paralyzes unaccustomed householders in the act of brushing their teeth or doing setting up exercises, pastimes which were formerly cloaked in intimate gloom. A fully automatic synchronous-motor time switch actuates a dimmer, and the floodlights do not attain full brilliancy for 15 minutes.

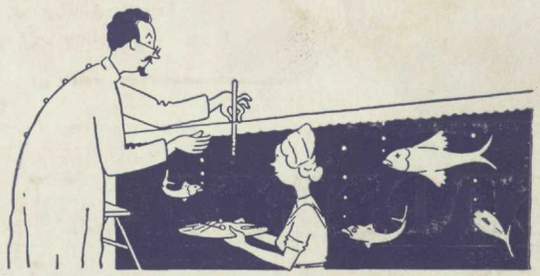


GROANING RAILS

A FEW weeks ago, the rails between Schenectady and Benning, D. C., groaned under what is believed to be the heaviest load ever transported on a single car. The load consisted of the generator shaft, rotor, and poles for a General Electric frequency-converter set being installed at the plant of the Potomac Electric Light and Power Company to deliver 25-cycle, single-phase power to the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Because of weight and clearance requirements, however, the route of the shipment was round about. A check of practically every foot of the way was made to determine if temporary obstructions could be removed to allow the load to pass. From Schenectady to Wilkes-Barre, Pa., the car traveled on the Delaware & Hudson. From Wilkes-Barre, the car was sent to Hagerstown, Md., on the Pennsylvania Railroad, where it was turned over to the Western Maryland Railroad. After an extensive detour, it was delivered back to the Pennsylvania on its main line just south of the Baltimore tunnels, which were the principal reasons for the complicated routing. From there it was carried directly to the power company's siding in the District of Columbia.

The equipment weighed 367,000 pounds. The special car added another 104,300 pounds, making the total weight on the rails 471,300 pounds.



FISH LIFE SAVER

THE people in the New York Aquarium were very unhappy. Many of their rare fish were dying of a mysterious malady. An investigation showed that the water pumped into the tanks contained contaminating metal salts, and that these salts came from the metal pumps in the system.

They appealed to the H. A. Smith Pump & Motor Company for help. Mr. Smith began testing all the nonmetallic substances available for making pumps. He tried 14 materials and found that General Electric Textolite was the only one that would prevent this pollution of the water and at the same time make a satisfactory pump.

Engineers of the General Electric Plastics Department were called in, and a new pump was designed, using five different grades of Textolite. The pump was so constructed that no water can come into contact with metal.

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GENERAL ELECTRIC